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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EPET](#) [ENRG](#) [EMIN](#) [ETRD](#) [EAID](#) [PREL](#) [PK](#)

SUBJECT: PAKISTAN TO MISS DEADLINE FOR 2008 AIRBORNE GEOPHYSICAL
SURVEY PROPOSAL

REF: ISLAMABAD 3871

¶1. (SBU) Summary: Due to the upcoming elections in Pakistan and current caretaker government, Government of Pakistan (GOP) approval for the proposed USGS and NRL geophysical survey is not possible in advance of the December 1 deadline. Post will continue to advocate for project approval so that the survey can take place in 2009. Post appreciates USGS and NRL support. End Summary.

¶2. (SBU) Contacts in the Pakistani Armed Force's Joint Headquarters Planning Division informed Embassy Islamabad Senior Air Force Representative that the GOP is not in a position to garner full approval of a proposed airborne geophysical survey of the country prior to the upcoming January elections.

¶3. (SBU) The survey, jointly proposed by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL), is designed to be a multiphase, airborne survey of Pakistan. Collected data would be utilized for the analysis of natural resources, soil composition, hydrology, earthquake hazard analysis and civil infrastructure planning. There was a narrow window of opportunity to secure GOP permission for a 2008 survey. The USGS-NRL team required notification by December 1, 2007 to begin preparation for a January - April 2008 survey.

¶4. (SBU) Comment: There is widespread support for the geophysical survey in Pakistan's scientific community and Government Ministries (reftel). While the deadline for project implementation in 2008 has passed, Post continues to believe that the project is worthwhile and will advocate on its behalf. Following the January 2008 elections and formation of a new government, we will engage our GOP interlocutors on the project, aiming to secure permission for 2009 survey dates. End Comment.

PATTERSON